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National Highway
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FRANKLIN RESEARCH CENTER

Division of Arvin/Calspan
New York 14225

FRC ON-SITE AIR BAG DEPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION

CASE NO. 90-13

FLEET - 1988 ACURA LEGEND

LOCATION - NY

ACCIDENT DATE - 1990

Contract No. DTNH22-87-C-07169

Prepared for:

U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Washington, D.C. 20590 "This document is disseminated under the sponsorship of the Department of Transportation in the interest of information exchange. The United States Government assumes no responsibility for the contents or use thereof."

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The crash investigation process is an inexact science which requires that physical evidence such as skid marks, vehicular damage measurements, and occupant contact points are coupled with the investigator's expert knowledge and experience of vehicle dynamics and occupant kinematics in order to determine the pre-crash, crash, and post-crash movements of involved vehicles and occupants.

Because each crash is a unique sequence of events, generalized conclusions cannot be made concerning the crashworthiness performance of the involved vehicle(s) or their safety systems.

TECHNICAL REPORT STANDARD TITLE PAGE

1. Report No.	2. Government Acce	ession No. 3.	Recipient's Catalog I	No.	
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FRC On-Site Air Bag Deployment Investigation			1990		
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Washington, D.C. 20590			Sponsoring Agency Code		
15. Supplementary Notes					
On-site investigation of an intersection type crash that involved a 1988 Acura					
Legend. The impact deployed the vehicle's driver air bag system.					
16. Abstract					
The full frontal area of the Acura Legend impacted the right side of a Nissan Maxima at a four-leg intersection. The Acura sustained a velocity change of 12.3 mph (longitudinal component of -10.6 mph) from the 11 o'clock impact force which was sufficient to deploy the vehicle's driver air bag system.					
The belted driver of the Acura loaded the active belt webbing and the deployed air bag. Her facial contact with the air bag displaced her eyeglasses which resulted in superficial lacerations of the bridge of her nose and of the left eyebrow area. The air bag also abraded her mid forehead area. The driver was admitted (overnight) to a for observation of a mild concussion that resulted from the bag contact and the impact force.					
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FRANKLIN ON-SITE AIR BAG DEPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION

FRC CASE NO. 90-13

FLEET - 1988 ACURA LEGEND LOCATION - NY

SUMMARY

This crash occurred at a major four-leg intersection on 1990, at 1344 hours. A 1988 Acura Legend LS, 4 dr. sedan, entered the intersection against a red signal phase and impacted the right side area of a 1985 Nissan Maxima as it was proceeding through the intersection. The crash resulted in a 11 o'clock/02 o'clock impact configuration with the Acura sustaining a velocity change of 12.3 mph (longitudinal component of -10.6 mph). The impact induced deceleration was sufficient to deploy the vehicle's driver air bag system.

The driver of the Acura was a 52 year old female, 62", 120 lbs. She was wearing the active 3-point lap and shoulder belt system. At impact she initiated a forward trajectory and loaded the active belt webbing and the deployed air bag. Her facial contact with the air bag resulted in an abrasion of her forehead (AIS-1). The bag displaced her eyeglasses which resulted in superficial lacerations (AIS-1) of the bridge of her nose and of the left eyebrow. The impact force and subsequent restraint loading produced a mild concussion (AIS-2). A make-up transfer evidenced her contact area with the air bag.

The driver was removed from the vehicle by rescue personnel and transported to a where she was admitted (overnight) for observation. Both vehicles sustained disabling damage and were towed from the scene. The occupants of the Nissan were not injured.

FRANKLIN ON-SITE AIR BAG DEPLOYMENT INVESTIGATION

FRC CASE NO. 90-13

FLEET - 1988 ACURA LEGEND

LOCATION - NY ACCIDENT DATE - 1990

ACCIDENT DATA

Location/Street:

Major four leg intersection

.....

City/Township:

NY

Area/Type:

Urban/Commercial

Accident Date/Time:

1990, 1344 hours

Investigating Police

Agency:

Police Dept.

Accident Type:

Car/Car, front to side impact configuration

Air Bag Vehicle

Occupant Injury Severity:

Moderate (AIS-2)

AMBIENCE

Light Conditions:

Daylight

Weather:

Cloudy

Precipitation:

None

Road Surface:

Dry

HIGHWAY

Air Bag Vehicle

Vehicle #2

Location:

Major arterial

Major arterial

Number of Lanes:

4

4

Surface:

Asphalt

Asphalt

Vertical Alignment:

Leve1

Leve1

Horizontal Alignment:

Straight

Straight

Traffic Density:

Moderate

Moderate

HIGHWAY (CONT'D.)

Air Bag Vehicle

Vehicle #2

Speed Limit:

35 mph

35 mph

Traffic Controls:

On-colors, pre-timed, overhead signal system

On-colors, pre-timed overhead signal system

VEHICLES

Air Bag Vehicle

Vehicle #2

Year:

1988

1985

Make:

Acura

Nissan

Model:

Legend LS

Maxima

Body Style:

4 dr. sedan

4 dr. sedan

V.I.N.:

JH4KA4662JC (production

JN1HU01S1ET (production

number deleted)

number deleted)

Mileage:

36,581.7

76,020

Windshield Damage/Source:

No windshield damage

None

Fleet:

Acura

Tow Status:

Towed due to damage

Towed due to damage

Reported Defects:

None

Previous Repairs:

None

VEHICLE DAMAGE

Deployment Impact

The frontal area of the Acura Legend impacted the right side of vehicle #2. Maximum crush was 15.5" located on the front bumper at the right corner. Direct contact damage was 62.5" in length and extended across the entire frontal plane. Crush values at bumper level were as follows: $C_1=1.5$ ", $C_2=2.5$ ", $C_3=5.5$ ", $C_4=7.625$ ", $C_5=9.5$ ", $C_6=15.5$ ".

Components damaged by the impact included the front bumper, grille, hood, radiator support panel, both front fenders, and the front unibody chassis.

The right side of the Nissan Maxima sustained moderate damage from its impact with the Acura. Maximum crush was 8.5" located at the mid-point on the right rear door. Direct contact damage began at the right rear bumper corner and extended 85" forward. Crush values at the mid door level were as follows: $C_1=0$ ", $C_2=2.0$ ", $C_3=2.375$ ", $C_4=8.5$ ", $C_5=6.5$ ", $C_6=0.0$ ".

The impact fractured the right rear axle and separated the wheel assembly from the vehicle.

VEHICLE DAMAGE (CONT'D.)

Air Bag Vehicle Vehicle #2

11-FDEW-2

O2-RZEW-3

Repair Cost: \$8500.00 Total loss

Interior (Air

The interior of the Acura Legend was not damaged or reduced in size by component intrusion. The driver loaded the deployed air bag and deposited a make-up transfer (1" in diameter) 9" above the

horizontal centerline of the bag and 1.5" left of the vertical centerline. Blood stains were also noted to the right lower quadrant of the bag.

AIR BAG SYSTEM

CDC:

The Acura Legend was equipped with a driver air bag system that deployed as a result of the frontal impact sequence. The deployed air bag measured approximately 24" in diameter and was vented through two ports that were 1.25" in diameter located on the back (module) side of the air bag. The bag did not have an internal tether strap and was stitched together with an internal seam. There were no tears or apparent flaws in the bag material.

The air bag was stamped with the following identification number:

SRS TAKATA MODEL NO. MFG DATE

The inflator module was identified by the following sequence.

AIR CUSHION INFLATOR

P/N

S/N

LOT NO. (BAR CODED)

DATE OF MFG. 187

PATENT NO.

DEFENSE SYSTEMS

VEHICLE VELOCITY ESTIMATES

Air Bag Vehicle Vehicle #2 Travel Speed: 35 mph (driver estimate) 35 mph Impact Speed: Unknown Unknown Total △V: 12.3 mph 12.3 mph Longitudinal △V: -10.6 mph - 6.1 mph Lateral △V: 6.1 mph -10.6 mph

COLLISION SEQUENCE

Pre-Crash:

The 1988 Acura Legend LS was proceeding in a westerly direction on the major arterial roadway at a driver estimated speed of 35 mph. As she approached a four leg intersection, she failed to detect the red signal phase and entered the intersection.

Vehicle #2 was traveling in a northerly direction on the intersecting roadway and entered the intersection on a green signal phase, crossing the air bag vehicle's path of travel.

Crash:

The full frontal area of the Acura impacted the right side area of the Nissan. Resultant directions of force were 11 o'clock for the Acura and 02 o'clock for vehicle #2. Velocity changes were computed at 12.3 mph (longitudinal component of -10.6 mph) for the Acura and 12.3 mph for vehicle #2 using the damage mode of the CRASHPC program. The impact induced deceleration was sufficient to deploy the Acura's driver air bag system.

The belted driver of the Acura was a 52 year old female, 62", 120 lbs. She initiated a forward trajectory in response to the 11 o'clock impact force and loaded the active belt webbing and the deployed air bag. The air bag loading displaced her eyeglasses which resulted in superficial lacerations of the bridge of the nose and of the left eyebrow area. The air bag also abraded the mid forehead area of the driver. The impact force and air bag loading resulted in a mild concussion with no reported loss of consciousness. The driver rebounded into the left front seatback where she came to rest.

Post-Crash:

The involved vehicles came to rest near the point of impact. At rest, the Acura was facing in a northwesterly direction while vehicle #2 was facing in a northeasterly direction.

The driver of the Acura remained in her vehicle and was removed on a backboard by rescue personnel. She was transported by ambulance to a where she was admitted (overnight) for observation.

COLLISION SEQUENCE (CONT'D.)

Post-Crash

Following the police investigation, both vehicles were

(Cont'd.): towed from the scene.

DRIVER DATA

Air Bag Vehicle #2

Male

Age: 53

29

Sex: Female

Height: 62"

Weight: 120 lbs.

Active Restraint 3-point lap

System Usage: and shoulder belt

Usage Source: Vehicle inspection, police report, driver

interview

Eyeglasses: Prescription plastic

framed glasses, deformed

by air bag contact, remained on driver's face

Vehicle Familiarity: 1 year

Route Familiarity: Weekly

Trip Plan: Returning to residence

Manner of Leaving Scene: Ambulance

Type of Medical Treatment: Transported to None, not injured

overnight for observation

DRIVER INJURIES

Injury Severity Source

Concussion, no loss Moderate (AIS-2) of consciousness

Air bag/impact force

Superficial laceration Minor (AIS-1) Air bag/eyeglasses of the bridge of the nose

Superficial laceration of Minor (AIS-1) Air bag/eyeglasses the left eyebrow area

Abrasion of the mid forehead Minor (AIS-1) Air bag

SELECTED PRINTS



Frontal View Of The Acura Legend.



Left Front Three-Quarter View.



Right Frontal Three-Quarter View.



Perpendicular View Of The Frontal Plane Showing The Extent Of Crush.



Longitudinal View Showing The Lateral Displacement Of The Frontal Plane.



Overall Interior View And The Deployed Air Bag.



Driver Facial Contact (Makeup Transfer) To The Left Upper Quadrant
The Air Bag.

SLIDE INDEX

Slide No(s).	Description
1	Driver injury mannequin
2	Frontal view of the Acura
3,4	Longitudinal views showing the lateral displacement of the frontal plane
5	Left front three-quarter view
6	Perpendicular view of the frontal plane
7	Left side view
8,9	Rear three-quarter views
10	Right side view
11	Perpendicular view of the right frontal area showing the extent of crush
12	Right front three-quarter view
13	Overall view of the interior and of the driver air bag
14	View across the interior from the left door area
15	Make-up transfer to the upper left quadrant of the air bag
16	Air bag identification numbers
17	Blood stains on air bag
18	Venting ports on back side of bag
19	SRS warning label
20	Knee bolster, no evidence of contact
21-23	Interior views from the rear seat area
24	Driver's seated position and belt system
25	V.I.N. plate
26-29	Right side views of vehicle #2
30	Longitudinal view showing the extent of crush
31	Left rear three-quarter view











































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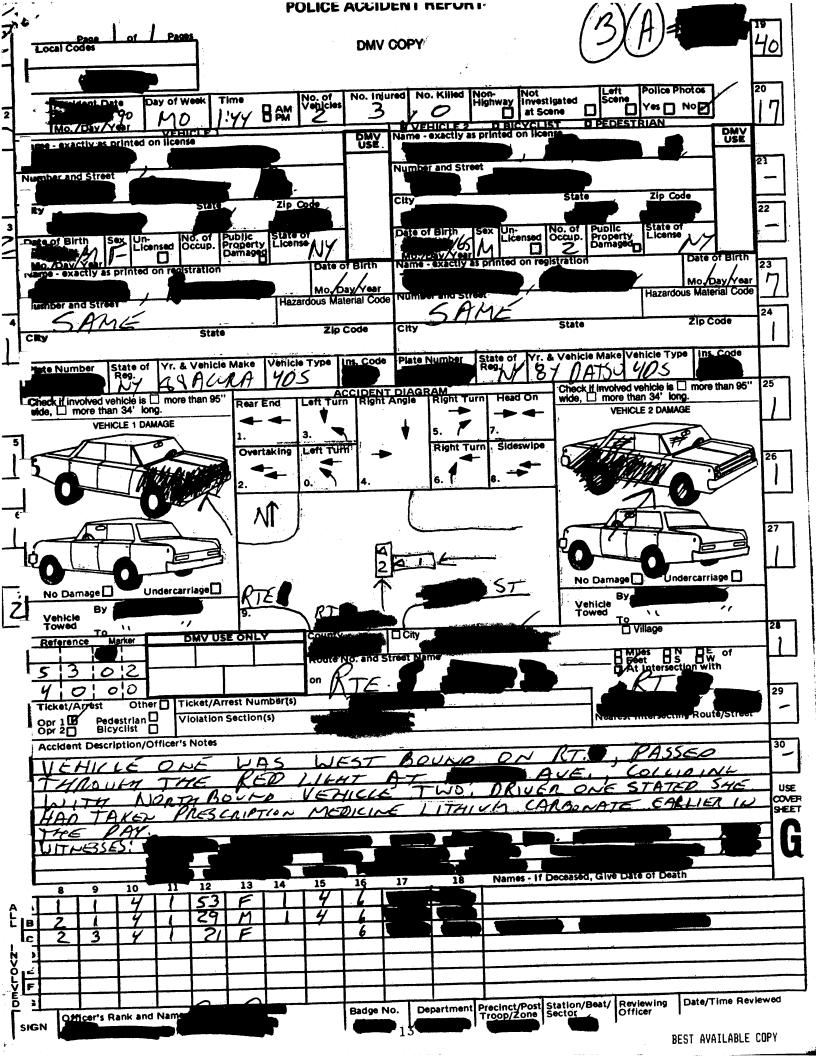


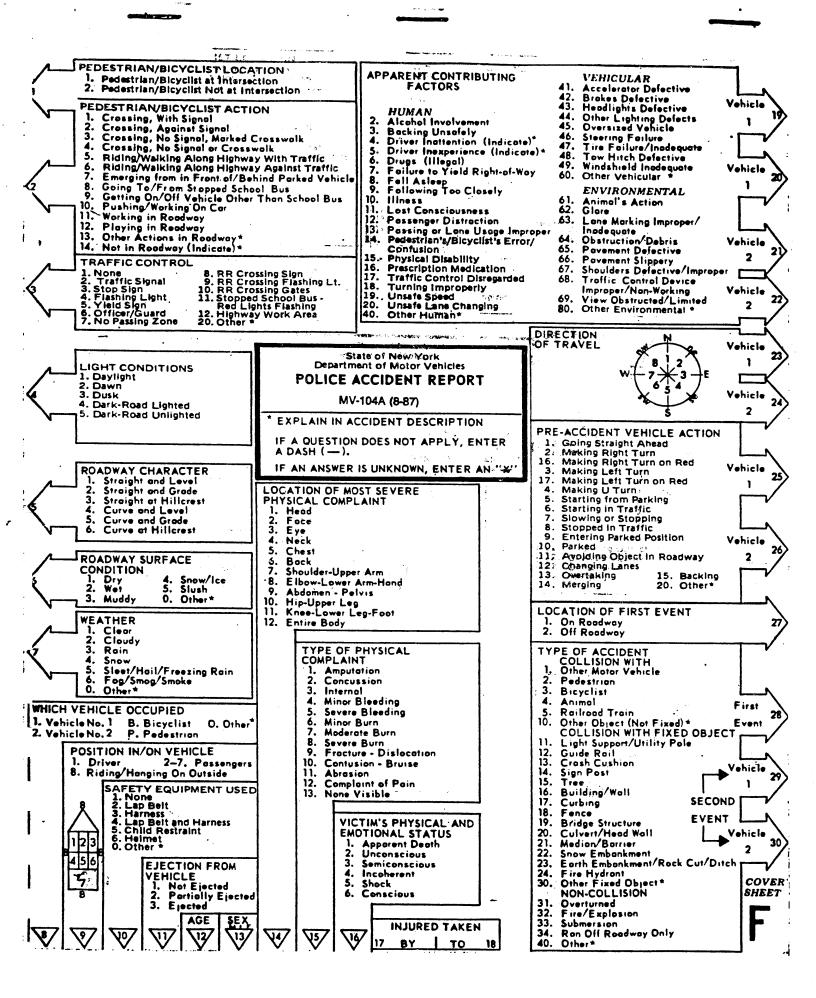




APPENDIX A

Police Accident Report





APPENDIX B

CRASHPC Output

SUMMARY OF CRASHPO RESULTS (USING SPINOUT)

CRASH3 RECONSTRUCTION

SPEED CHANGE		TOTAL (MPH)	LONG.(MPH)	LAT. (MPH)	ANG. (DEG)
(DAMAGE)	VEH #1	12.3	-10.6	6.1	-30.0
	VEH #2	12.3	-6.1	-10.6	60.0

ENERGY DISSIPATED BY DAMAGE VEH#1: 37727.8 FT-LB VEH#2: 20125.0 FT-LB

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE DATA VEHICLE # 1

(* INDICATES DEFAULT VALUE) VEHICLE # 2

TYPECATEGORY	3		TYPECAT	regory	3	
STIFFNESSCATEGORY	9		STIFFNESSCAT	EGORY	3	
WEIGHT 3220.	o LBS.		WEIGHT	3230.0	LBS.	
CDC11FDEW2			CDC02R	RZEW3		
62.0	IN.			85.0	IN.	
1.5	IN.		C:1	3.0	IN.	
<u> </u>	IN.		C2	4.5	IN.	
5.5	IN.		C:3	4.4	IN.	
04 7.6	IN.		C:4	9.3	IN.	
C5 9.5	IN.		C5	7.0	IN.	
C6 15.5	IN.		C:6	.0	IN.	
J	ı		D	-40.7		
RHO 1.00	•	*	RH0	1.00		*
ANG 330.0	DEG.	*	ANG	60.0	DEG.	*
g/	IN.		D •	-38.8		

DIMENSIONS AND INERTIAL PROPERTIES

2		FT 4 (7)	7 % (Λ		E4 0	TAI
Ai	****	51.3	IN.	A2		51.3	IN.
B1		55.5	IN.	B2	===	55.5	IN.
TR1		58.9	IN.	TR2		58.9	IN.
I 1	==	27829.6	LB-SEC**2-IN	12	::::	27916.1	LB-SEC**2-IN
F11	****	8.372	LB-SEC**2/IN	M2	===	8.398	LB-SEC**2/IN
XF1		89.8	IN.	XF2	==	89.8	IN.
KR1	-	-106.4	IN.	XR2	==	-106.4	IN.
YS1	===	36.3	IN.	YS2	===	36.3	IN.



